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Prohibition – Ameliorative activities
Report for January 1950 Pre
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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,

PUBLIC WORKS (INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY)DEPARTMENT

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PRESS NOTE NO.67, dated the 18th April 1950.

The following is the report of the working of the enforcement of Prohibition during January 1950 and the ameliorative work connected with it.

ENFORCEMENT.

Cases: The total number of cases detected during the month in the 25 districts of the Madras State was 6,672 as against 5,288 cases detected during the previous month. All districts except Madras and Tirunelveli contributed towards increase in the cases reported. In many of the districts Pongal Festival gave an impetus to I.D. and kindred offences and the preventive staff rose to the occasion and made effective raids. The sweet toddy season had begun during the month and offences of illicit tapping for fermented toddy and tapping of trees for sweet toddy without licences tended to increase. In the Madras City misuse of licences issued to tappers has been on the increase in recent months. The activities of the smugglers on the Pondicherry borders increased during the month. It has been reported that a lot of foreign liquor was being smuggled from Pondicherry and Bangalore for consumption in the City not merely by the rich but also by the upper-middle class who cannot reasonably afford to pay for it.

Illicit distillation: Of the total number of cases reported in the 25 districts, 2732 cases related to illicit distillation and kindred offences as against 2227 cases during the previous month. Increase in cases under this head occurred in the districts of Kurnool, Cuddapah Coimbatore, Chittoor, Guntur, Tanjore, Tiruchirapalli, Madurai and all the nine new Prohibition districts which went dry from 2-10-48. Sangala, a notorious village in Anantapur district was raided twice and 9 working stills were unearthed. Besides and undetected case involving 318 gallons of wash kept in 53 pots on the hillocks was also reported. In Kurnool district as a sort of preventive measure, forests, hillocks and secluded places used by the distillers as convenient places for distillation were ransacked by the staff as a result of which unclaimed pots containing 886 gallons of distilling materials were unearthed and destroyed. In Cuddapah frequent raids were launched over black localities resulting in an increase in the number of cases reported under the head as usual as many as 5436 gallons of fermented wash was

recovered and destroyed in Salem district. Of these 4450 gallons of wash were found kept in open places in 592 unclaimed mud pots. During the course of a house search at Majaragollapatti 6 bottles and a jar full of I.D. arrack were seized. In Salem effective raids were conducted on the reputed I.D. centres yielding good results. The preventive staff in Coimbatore district combed all bad villages and registered the record number of cases of I.D. and kindred offences during the month. In North Arcot district 23 persons were caught in the very act of distillation. At Bapatla, Guntur district 6 effective raids were conducted resulting in the detection of 42 cases in all. At Epurgamandalapalam in Nellore District 8 cases under this head and 3 cases of drunkenness were reported. All the 13 cases of distillation detected in Mathurai district were from the Palni Station limits which is the I.D. area in that district. Kanavaram village, a notorious crime centre and one of the chief sources of supply of I.D. arrack to Rajahmundry town, was raided during the month and 21 cases in addition to one undetected case were reported. The seizures involved were 400 gallons of wash, 3 gallons of I.D. arrack and still implements. This village is reported to have ample facilities for the distillation of arrack which is financed by some of the illicit sellers of Rajahmundry town. A distillery was unearthed at Linganaboy in a cherala, which was reportdd to be the source of supply of arrack to the notorious Abbayis Company in Narasapur Town. Badampudi village was raided twice in the month and 30 cases under this head including 6 working stills were detected. In Madras City, in addition to 24 cases of illicit distillation,84 cases of possession of I.D. liquor were reported. This abnormal increase in possession cases xxxxx reveals that plenty of I.D. liquor is transported into the City from the surrounding areas for illicit sales. When the Excise Prohibition staff, Poonamallee, raided Vellerithangal village during the month the raided party was assaulted and the assailants numbering seven were charged. In spite of the assault the staff were able to report five cases. A party of staff raided a cloth shop at Visakhapatnam during the month when a case of possession involving 63 bottles of foreign liquor and one full jar containing Malabar arrack was detected. A merchant in Mettupalayam, Coimbatore district was arrested by the local Prohibition

cases for possession of 4 boxes containing 47 bottles of singiberis.

Illicit tapping: In the 25 districts, 265 cases of illicit tapping were reported during the month as against 111 cases reported during the previous month. Increase under this head was noticeable mainly in the districts of Coimbatore, Guntur, Malabar, West Godavari, Krishna and Madras. The general increase was attributed to the commencement of the sweet toddy season.

Smuggling of liquor: The total number of cases of smuggling of liquor reported during the month ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ was 106 as against 96 cases in the previous month. During the raids conducted on the border areas of Bellary district adjoining Hyderabad State, 24 gallons of toddy smuggled from that State were seized. A case of smuggling involving 96 bottles of arrack contained in 4 tins was detected at Panoor, Malabar district. During the month, 43 cases of smuggling were detected on the Pondicherry borders adjoining South Arcot district. A case involving a seizure of 2 gallons of French arrack was reported there on the Pongal day. At Mandagapattu 2 cases involving 9 quart bottles and 4 pint bottles of foreign liquor and 4 gallons of French arrack were detected. At Tirukkoilur a seizure of 20 quart bottles and 10 pint bottles of foreign liquor was effected. The total contraband recovered in all the 43 cases on the French border was 69 quarts and 35 pints foreign liquor, 17 gallons 27 drams of French arrack and gallons of toddy.

Intoxicating drugs: The total number of cases reported under this head during the month was 180 as against 181 cases during the previous month. Of these 166 cases ~~cases~~ related to possession of drugs. The one case of cultivation of hemp plants detected in Tirunelveli district involved 3 plants. In one of the cases of possession reported in Anantapur district, 100 tolas of Mysore ganja were seized. In the borders of Kurnool district adjoining Hyderabad State, at Nandikotkur a case involving 58 tolas of pressed ganja was booked. Two notorious ganja sellers of Guhai, Salem District were arrested and 3 seers and 26 tolas of Mysore ganja were recovered. At Tirunelveli, 2 cases involving 13 tolas of raw opium and 75 tolas of pressed ganja said to have been

smuggled from the United State of Travancore and Cochin were booked. At Ramachandrapuram, East Godavari District, a boot-legger was closely shadowed md arrested for possession of one seer and 20 tolas of opium. In the Harbour area the Customs staff booked a person from Amritsar for possession of 2½ seers of opium. The Excise and Prohibition Intelligence Bureau staff reported 3 opium cases in the month involving 8 seers and 62½ tolas in all.

AMELIORATION

PROVISION OF EMPLOYMENT TO EXTAPPERS.

During the month 82 jaggery manufacturing societies were organised in the districts. 1.65 lakhs of maunds of jaggery worth Rs.11.79 lakhs were produced in the jaggery societies. The palm jaggery and other cottage industries products of extappers were exhibited at the Exhibition held at Srirangam in the Thiruchirapalli District. A co-operative Milk Supply Society for the benefit of ex-tappers and ex-addicts was organised in the Government House Estate Guindy. A Milk supply society was also organised for the benefit of the Gowdas and others at Brahamanakodur in the Guntur District. One labour contract society at Tennilai in the Tiruchirapalli District, One [illegible] cottage industries society at Perur in the Malabar District and one Tenants' Co-operative Society at Kletipalam in the Guntur District were also organised in the month. Besides, 827 ex-tappers were provided with work in various other avocations such as agricultural labourers unskilled workers in the Commercial and industrial establishments; as watchmen, peons etc., as gang coolies in the Engineering departments and in miscellaneous other employments.

A number of societies such as Rural Credit Societies, Milk Supply Societies and labour contract societies, rural house construction societies tenants Co-operative societies etc., were also formed for the benefit of the general public as well as ex-tappers.

GRAMASANGAMS AND RURAL CREDIT SOCIETIES - During the month, 7 gramasangams were formed in the districts bringing the total number of sangams so far organised to 13091. 4682 of them were active during the month attending to various items of work such as the provision of counter attractions to drink and the improvement of the economic and social conditions of the villagers particularly in the direction of public health, sanitation, communication, education, agricultural implements and the welfare and uplift of women, The Government sanctioned a grant of Rs.3000/- to the Puliamangalam Gramasangam in the North Arcot District towards the construction of a community centre in the village.

415 Rural Credit Societies amended their by-laws for undertaking social and recreational activities bringing the total number of such societies at the end of the month to 3181. They did good work in running reading rooms, opening libraries and in the installation of radio sets.

SUBSTITUTE TO DRINK: French tea stalls are reported to have been opened in the rural areas in the districts. They continued to be popular in the districts.

RURAL RECREATION: Dramas, Bhajanas, Kalakshepams, folk dances etc., continued to be held at many places in the Province. During the month the Rural Welfare Officers visited 1898 villages and conducted rural games in 659 villages. These include 30 firka tournaments, 29 taluks tournaments 24 districts tournaments and 66 divisional tournaments.

THRIFT: During the month 1970 ~~must~~ boxes ~~was~~ were distributed in the villages by the amemiorative staff and a sum of Rs.33025 was saved through them

PROPAGANDZ; The propaganda vans with their equipment and gramaphone records were used in many villages for purposes of propaganda and for entertaining the villagers.

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/Issued by the Director of Information & Publicity/

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Superintendent

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